

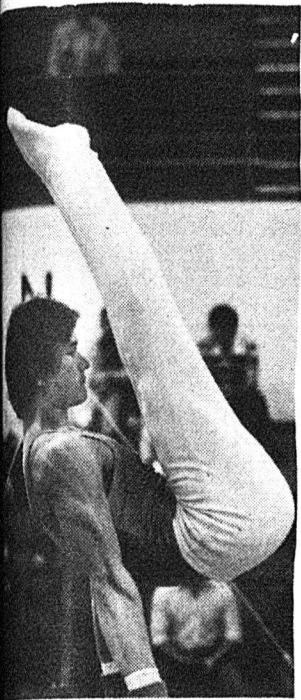
Bears destroy Calgary nemesis for title

John Younie

That large puff of hot air floating over phys. ed. complex on Saturday night was broken air conditioning. It was just Golden Bear gymnastics coach Francis Tally letting out an extra-large sigh of relief.

"We did it," Tally beamed, as he led his squad of five had wrestled the Canada West gymnastics team title from Calgary Huskies, and returned it to the Bears for the first time since 1972.

"Calgary and us have been close the whole year, but I



Charlie Mowat. Photo by Russ Simpson.

think the main reason why we won by as much as we did (3.1 pts) was everyone did solid routines, no one really had an off night."

The final results had Alberta first (201.95), Calgary second (198.85) and UBC third (194.35).

The Bears' chances of defeating Calgary looked dim even before the meet started, when ace high-bar man Alfred Segger broke his ankle in the warmup. However, the remaining five Bears more than adequately took up the slack, many turning in personal bests. Randy Joines scored a 7.05 on the pommel horse, and finished with a 40.20 score. "Overall, I would say this has been my best meet," Randy said later. "All the guys got together before the meet and said we would give our best, and that's what happened."

Ed Osborne (UBC) and Keith Erhardt (U of C) tied for individual all-round honors with identical 45.85 scores. Chris Grabowecky (U of C) was third with a 45.70 score and James Hamilton from Alberta was fourth with a 45.45 mark. Other Bears in the top ten were Charlie Mowat, sixth (40.9); Randy Joines, seventh (40.20); Gary Carleton, ninth (38.20); and Eric Ruckenthaler, tenth (37.20). A score above 36.0 is needed to qualify for nationals to be held in Vancouver in two weeks.

The Bears won their fair share of awards Sunday afternoon in the individual event competition, but the outstanding performance was put in by UBC gymnast Ed Osborne. The Vancouver native won four of the six events; rings, vault, parallel bars

and high bar. James Hamilton led Tally's squad on Sunday with two seconds (in rings and high bar) and two thirds (in floor

exercise and parallel bars). Other Bears who won accolades were Charlie Mowat, second in pommel horse, Randy Joines,

third in the rings event, and Eric Ruckenthaler, third in the vault competition.

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Basketball

Bears play-off run continues

by John Younie

The University of Alberta Golden Bears reduced their magic number for clinching a playoff spot to one by sweeping a pair of Canada West basketball matches from the hapless Saskatchewan Huskies 104-77 on Friday and 83-67 on Saturday in CWUAA action in Varsity gym. A U of A win or a Calgary loss during the final weekend of competition will give the final playoff spot to Alberta.

Friday's game was decided by the two minute mark with the Bears ahead 12-2. Saskatchewan then seemed to lose interest, just going through the motions during the last three quarters of the game.

Team captain Brent Patterson was the catalyst for the Bear victory. Patterson only scored 13 points, but his forays into Saskatchewan's defence and his passing had the prairie squad completely befuddled. Alberta coach Garry Smith, who alternated rookie Blaine Haines with Patterson, was full of praise for the four year starter from Calgary. "Brent makes a big difference when he's running the offence. He makes the other four players on the court better than they would be without him. That's taking nothing away from Blaine's performance ... he just needs some more work."

The Bears, who shot an even 50% from the floor, received 25 points from Pat Rooney. Jim Bonin and Grant Ashlee scored 16 apiece. Wayne Dyck with 20 points and Jim Barbeau with 16 points led the now 1-17 Huskies.

Saturday afternoon's game had the underflow crowd of 500 sitting on their hands for almost the entire game, as neither team played up to their capabilities. Alberta needed the win to keep pace with the Calgary Dinosaurs, just behind them in the standings.

"I told the team to think of it as a playoff game, hoping it would stimulate them. We won, but that's about all I can say about the game."

The Bears were ahead 41-29 at the intermission, but only outscored the last-place Huskies 42-38 in the second half.

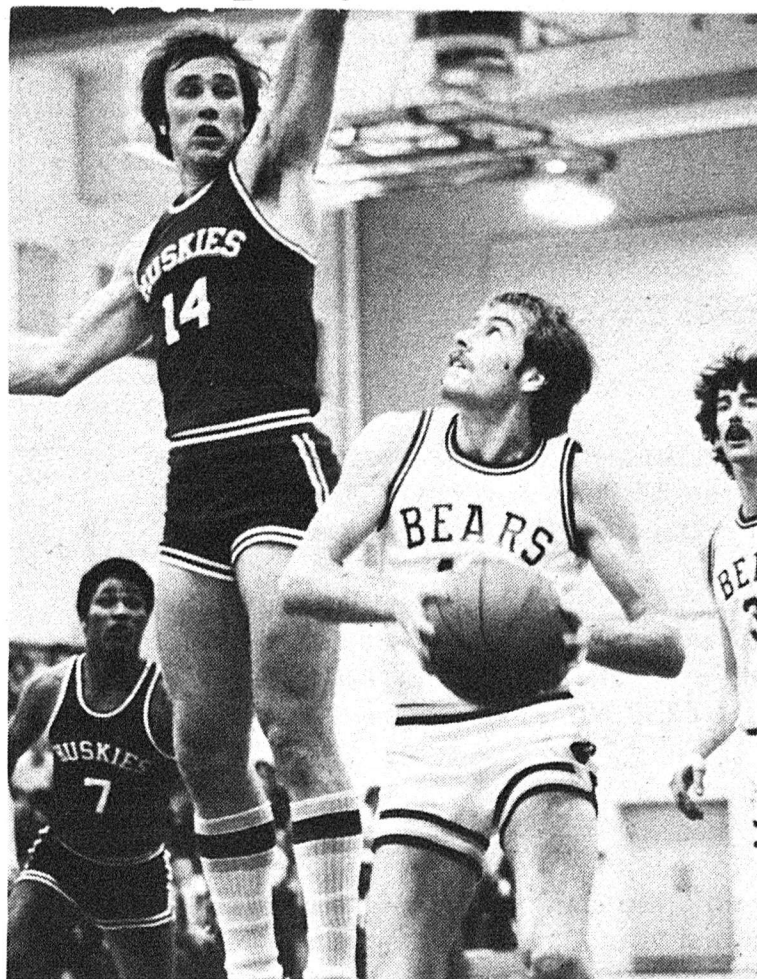
Jim Bonin was top point man for Alberta, with 20. Pat Rooney scored 16 and Tom Groat had 12. Murray Hall and Wayne Dyck paced Huskies with 14 points each. Neither team had a particularly good day shooting. The Bears shot 39% while the Huskies shot a microscopic 26%.

BEAR FACTS

Two inebriated 'cheerleaders' kept those fans who showed up for Friday's game off their hands and interested in the game (or something).

Both games took quite a while to play owing to the large number of fouls called by the referees. The officials blew the whistle 55 times in Friday's game and almost the same amount in Saturday's contest.

Calgary kept pace with the Bears by sweeping a pair of games from first-place U Vic Vikings in Calgary. That means Alberta must at least split their final series, at home this weekend against the Vikings, to assure themselves of a playoff spot.

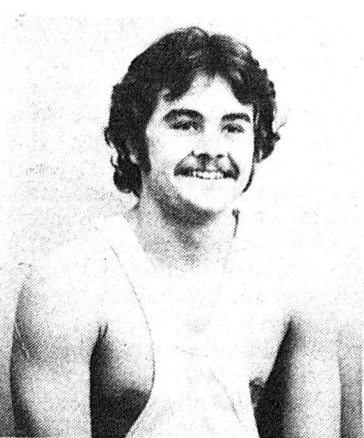


Bears' Brent Patterson (with ball) played a tremendous game Friday night. Photo by Jim Connell.

Wrestlers steal Canada West honors

The Golden Bear Wrestling team won their second CWUAA title in three years by upsetting the other conference universities, with a 7 point lead over second place Saskatoon Huskies (42 points). UBC was third (30) and Calgary fourth (27) in the weekend classic at Saskatoon.

The Bears, who were without defending heavyweight champion Jay Heatherington due to a last minute injury, led off an amazing three wins, seven seconds, and one fourth place finish. They easily defeated the other schools in dual meet competition and their team spirit was infectious as was evidenced by the inspired performance of a team that was expected to place only



U of A's Scott Tate, outstanding wrestler at CWUAA.

"Pencil," who got off to a slow start this year due to pre-marital bliss, finished in fine form and is looking at winning gold in the upcoming Nationals.

Dave Judge, a sophisticated veteran of many seasons, narrowly missed winning the championship while on the losing side of a 6-5 decision to Martin Gleave of UBC. The same fate befell Steve Tisberger, who lost only to defending Canadian Champ Peter Farkas. Both however, wrestled well and are eligible to avenge themselves next year.

The 150 pound weight class was won by the Bear's captain Mark Yurick, who wrestled primarily due to the efforts of Ray Kelly's training staff, who performed miracles on Mark's badly sprained foot. "Fingers" who says his only handicap is his coach, had not trouble with any of his opponents and Coach Barry said "You've got to hand it to him."

The biggest upset of the tournament came when Sean

Holmstrom won an incredible 16-15 victory over former champion Brett Adams of Saskatoon. Sean's gutsy, come from behind performance, seemed to totally destroy the Husky team and exhilarate the gregarious Bears.

Even Kelly Rich, who on Wednesday was travelling as team manager, was brilliant as he defeated Calgary and B.C. opponents to place second. This ostentatious aggie proved that he could wrestle well when the pressure was on.

Gordie Glanz, our only representative on the Winter Games team also finished second, upsetting Saskatchewan's Bruce Handbidge. This calm, and collected individual who is a vintage car collector and avid floor hockey player, was asked how he expected to do in Brandon, he replied, "I don't know, I can't find my glasses."

Weighing in a 168 and

Pandas basketball

Good-bye play-offs

by John Younie

A curious second half lapse, when they were outscored 22-2 in a six minute span spelled defeat, and an end to post-season hopes, for Debbie Shogan's basketball team, as they lost a 60-57 heartbreaker to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Saturday afternoon at Varsity gym. The Pandas were in a must-win situation attempting to catch the second-place Victoria Vikettes, who won their game the previous night.

A red-eyed Shogan was at a loss to explain her team's second

wrestling at 190 is the horse's forte. Eldon Reynolds shed his playboy image for the day and came up big to place second for the Bears. The Arnold Swartzenagger of the wrestling team and Hugh Heffner of the farm types proved to be an integral part of the team.

Both Jim Kitz and Lorne DeGroot wrestled against the heavies. They need only a little more experience and there is no doubt that they would have placed highly in their divisions.

Coach Barry who should be praised for his gentlemanly conduct and quiet demeanour, during the actual competition is exceptionally happy that only two or three of this year's team members will be graduating.

Tate Yurick and Purych will travel with Barry to the Nationals to be held March 3 in Guelph, Ontario.

period collapse. "We just lost our poise and panicked. Our offence just wasn't controlled."

The panic referred to is reflected in the Panda's second half shooting percentage, only 23%. The Pandas were in control at the end of the first-half, ahead 31-21 and seemingly on their way to the victory. "I don't know what happened," commented a sombre Faith Rostad later. "They came out of the dressing room ready to play in the second half and we didn't. I just can't believe the season's over."

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